

ELSEWHEN

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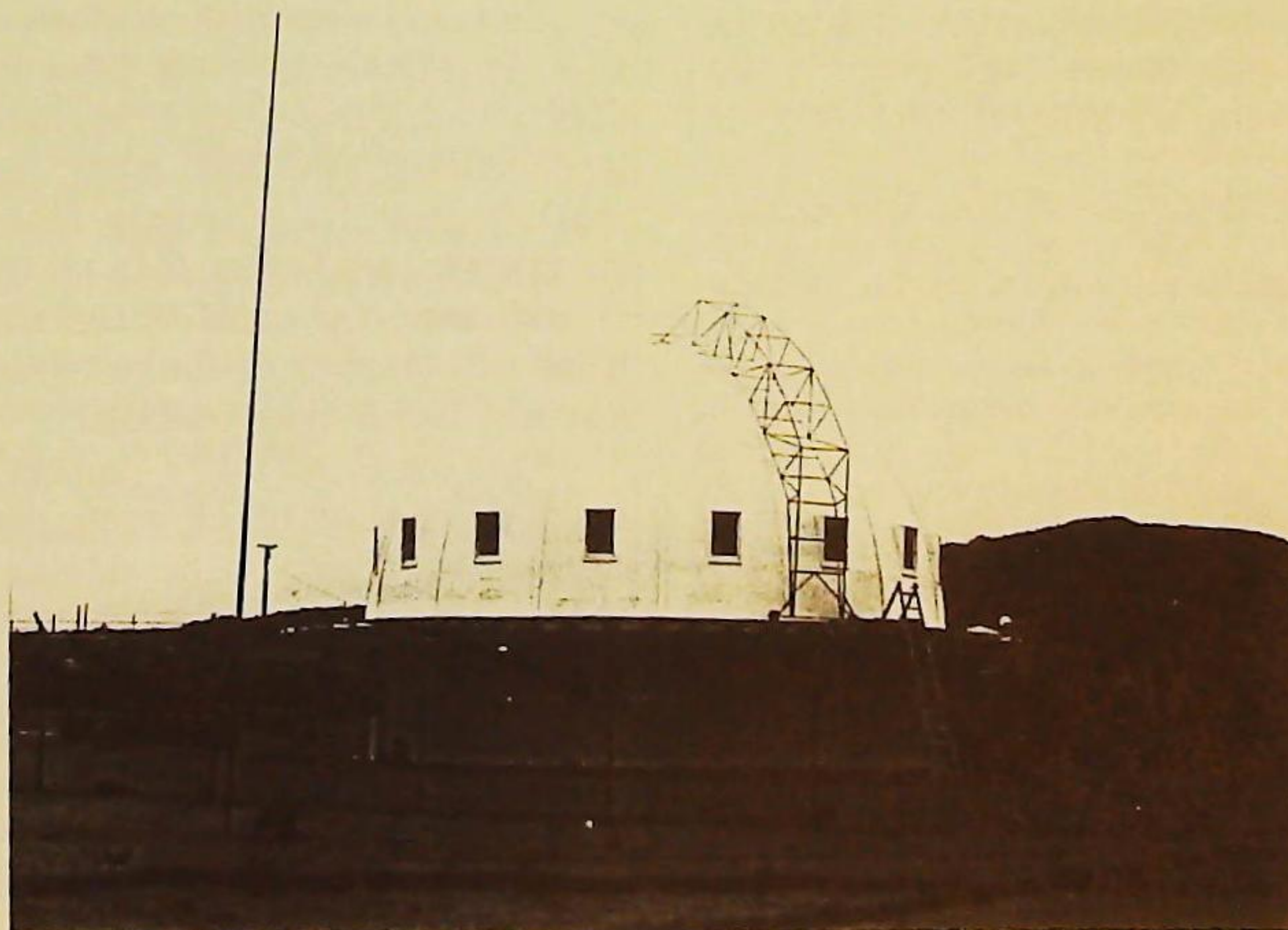
Exploring Mysteries of Time and Space

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Featuring:

**Strange Happenings in the Desert:
George Van Tassel,
Giant Rock and the Integratron**



ELSEWHEN

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Editor

Mark R. Gardner

Assistant Editor

Sandra Dunn

Contributors to This Issue

Richard Kyle
Kimberly Wajer
Hugh Trotti
Gary Mangiacopra
James Baker
Violet Dobie
Joy Barish
Kenji Chōno

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This Issue of *ELSEWHEN* Is Dedicated to the Memory of

GENE RODDENBERRY

His Foresight and Imagination Took Us
"Where No One Has Gone Before"

Thanks, Gene, We'll Miss You!

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From the Editor's Desk

Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis.

The times change and we change with them.

Greetings! Welcome to the tenth issue of *Elsewhen*. When I first started this publication I had no idea it would last this long. I predicted that I would have fun with a couple of issues and then wrap it up, going on to some other project. That you are holding a *tenth* issue in your hands is nearly miraculous. We still have a small circulation, but it is very exciting that *Elsewhen* now goes out to people in nine countries. We hope to continue expanding. I thank everyone for their past contributions. Here's to the next ten issues!

As you can see to your left and throughout this publication, we have changed the name of our parent organization to *The Strange & Unusual Phenomena Research Association*. It will be popularly known by its initials, *SUPRA*. It was felt that we had grown beyond the bounds of a research group focusing on those so-called 'temporal anomalies'. Please make note of this name change for your future correspondence and when sending payments. Our address remains the same.

You will also note another change in this issue of *Elsewhen* — the print looks different. This is because we have upgraded to a better laser printer. It has more features. This month's issue is a unique 'composite issue', since some pages were done on an H-P LaserJet II and some on an H-P LaserJet IIID. The latter will be used on future issues. I hope that you will find it more readable.

This issue contains a number of interesting articles, most of which were done some time ago. I am hoping to be able to get submitted articles into print sooner. Anyway, *Elsewhen* #10 contains an article about the unusual George Van Tassel and his 'folly', the Integratron, Part II of "Subject: Time Travel", a variety of other articles on assorted topics, and is wrapped up with the second installment of Gary's research tips. Enjoy this issue!

Mark Gardner

THIS STRANGE WORLD

Strange Happenings in the Desert: George Van Tassel, Giant Rock and the Integratron

by Mark Gardner

I first heard about George W. Van Tassel and the Integratron from my Uncle Dick several years ago. Some may ask, who is this George Van Tassel and what is this Integratron thing? Well, first of all, we need to know just where and when this story takes place:

The late George Van Tassel and his wife managed an airstrip in the California desert at a place called Giant Rock (near Palm Springs). This is an accurate name, for there is a giant rock there. At one time there was even a habitable "room" underneath this huge geological formation. George had been involved with aviation since 1927 and had worked with Howard Hughes during the 1940's. He also worked with the Air Force for a time.

Along with such people as Adamski, Mr. Van Tassel was one of the early figures in the Contactee Movement. His life would be changed forever by what he claimed happened on August 24, 1953: George and his wife were sleeping outdoors on a hot night when he was suddenly awakened at 2 a.m. At his feet stood "Solgonda", a 5'7" space visitor. This alien took George to a spaceship hovering not far away. After speaking with three other beings for approximately 20 minutes, he was lead back to where his wife still lay sleeping. The visitor and spaceship suddenly weren't there anymore.

Shortly after this, Van Tassel formed the College of Universal Wisdom, which was in turn part of his Ministry of Universal Wisdom, Inc. At about the same time he held the first of his interplanetary spacecraft conventions. He also began to accept donations towards the construction of a device — the Integratron — to supposedly to pursue the possibilities of cellular rejuvenation. The technical information on how to construct this device was purportedly provided by the space visitors.

Van Tassel claimed that all but four planets of the solar system and some of the moons of Jupiter and Saturn were inhabited. He stated that a planet had once existed between Mars and Jupiter, and that its beings had blown themselves up. Jupiter itself had been populated, but was rendered uninhabitable by this catastrophe.

Van Tassel was absolutely convinced that the powers-that-be were completely aware of the true facts of space visitors and other inhabited worlds. They wanted to prevent chain reaction panic around the world should people learn of the existence of a superior race of beings. He also claimed

that the U.S. had recovered a crashed UFO and used it as the pattern to build a whole fleet of UFO's. He once claimed that the U.S. had flown its UFO's to the moon and back before Apollo.

Down through the coming years he held many gatherings in the "seance room" under the Rock. Many people came to witness his contacts with the space visitors. The meetings took place every Friday night for 22 years. There would be anywhere from a dozen to over a hundred at these meetings. Many apparent messages from the Space Brothers were channeled by Van Tassel.

In addition to these meetings, skywatches were held off an on over the years in the surrounding desert. People claimed on a number of occasions that they saw lights. George Van Tassel was also the editor of a newsletter, *Proceedings of the College of Universal Wisdom*, a quarterly publication that spread his ideas for many years. My uncle provided me with three photocopies of 1975-76 issues — they are clearly in the camp of the New Age. Most issues had some article about the Integratron project.

As the years went by the contributions for the construction of the Integratron grew. Eventually the ground was broken and construction began. To many this would be a great folly, to others a miracle. The operation of the large dome-like structure was supposed to reverse the aging process. The device was to be run on "free energy" collected directly from the atmosphere. Although the structure was eventually completed, it is doubtful that it ever worked at all or the way it was intended. Despite the original plan to treat up to 10,000 people a day when it was completed, Van Tassel certainly continued to age and finally succumbed to the ravages of time in 1978.

Was the Integratron just a mad man's folly or a clever boondoggle? It is hard to tell. The fact of the matter is that the Integratron still stands intact in the middle of nowhere with a security fence surrounding it. Some claim that its maintenance has been taken over by the military, although rarely, if ever, is anyone actually seen there. After Van Tassel's death, visitors to the Integratron noted that it was just as empty as it had been during the late 1960's. The Integratron had been closed to the public just a couple of years before George Van Tassel's death. Another interesting thing was the drawn-out court battle over the ownership of the dome-like structure and the land around it at Giant Rock after Van Tassel's death.

Apparently Van Tassel had been working on changes to the Integratron or perhaps the construction of an updated and improved Integratron II at the time of his death. Unfortunately, George left little in the way of technical data or blueprints. Supposedly it was based on the interaction of electrostatic fields and magnetic waves — stuff one would expect to see associated with Lakhovsky or Tesla.

It is hard to fathom George Van Tassel after all this time. Arch-Skeptics would say the man was a crackpot, a sly con artist or a little of both. True Believers probably still accept most, if not all, of what he said. The meetings at the Rock, the College of Universal Wisdom, the newsletter, and even the airfield are now things of the past. The Integratron still stands alone in the desert.

SUBJECT: TIME TRAVEL

by Mark Gardner

Part II: On the Television

Previously, I wrote about how popular the theme of time travel and/or the changing of history was in the science fiction genre of printed literature. This theme is even more common in science fiction television shows. There is hardly any sci-fi series in the past 40+ years of TV history that hasn't used this theme at least once during its run—some even had/have it as their main basis.

I'll admit that I have been a science fiction fan for most of my life. In addition to books, I enjoyed watching all sorts of sci-fi shows on TV from classics *The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits* to today's popular *Quantum Leap* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Rod Serling's brilliant *The Twilight Zone* will always be a favorite of mine. I have most of the episodes on tape. There are several episodes of this series that involve the subject of Time. One episode is centered around an airliner over the Atlantic Ocean that gets caught in a powerful tailwind. The crew is baffled when they can't reach the tower in New York. They descend to find the World's Fair in full swing—only it should be twenty some years in their past. They realize they can't stay in this time and ascend to find the "tailwind" again. After they do, they descend again—only to witness a jungle-like landscape populated by dinosaurs! Running low on fuel, they climb once again to find the "tailwind" and perhaps the way home. The story ends here. This chilling tale of a time warp still gives me big goose-bumps.

Perhaps the one show of my childhood that made the biggest impact on me was an episode of *The Outer Limits*. In this episode an air force pilot regains consciousness after his jet crashes, only to find that everything is frozen except for him. Or so it seems. In fact, time is moving, just extremely slowly. He is confused by what he sees, of course, especially by the sight of his own jet frozen up in the sky, coming down out of control. He wanders around the base and eventually finds his young son on a tricycle, being chased by his teacher. The boy has evidently "escaped" from his preschool. But danger lurks! The boy is pedalling towards a garage door where a large truck stands. The father discovers that the brake on the truck has slipped off and that the vehicle will leap forward just as the boy pedals by. The pilot cuts off the seat-belts and rigs a strap from the wheels of the truck to the hand brake. He returns to the crashed jet to await the moment when time catches up. It does. The jet crashes, he walks away, the truck leaps forward, the strap tightens, the brake lever is pulled, and the truck screeches to a halt inches from the boy, just as his preschool teacher catches up to him. A fascinating story.

Then comes the early 60's series, *The Time Tunnel*, which was a strong catalyst for my interest in time travel. The series is centered around a top secret complex located under a desert. This is the location of a highly classified device, the Time Tunnel. In the series opener one of the men involved in the project activates the device and runs into the tunnel. He lands in 1912 on the *R.M.S. Titanic* right before its brush with the iceberg. He tries to warn the captain of the impending disaster but he thinks the time traveler is crazy. It appears that he will go down with the ship. Unable to bring him back, another project technician secures a copy of a 1912 newspaper with the details of the disaster. He leaps to 1912. Unfortunately, the captain thinks the paper is a hoax and now two men are stuck on the doomed ship. Meanwhile, the technicians are trying to fix the machine so that they can bring the two men back. After the *Titanic* hits the iceberg, the two men manage to get away and leap over the side. They are snatched away from 1912 before they hit the water. Instead of being back in the present, though, they end up in another place and time. So their adventures begin.

Time travel appeared in such shows as the TV classics, *Lost in Space* and *Land of the Giants*. In the first, one of the episodes tells of how the crew of the *Jupiter II* finally make it back to Earth, only to discover it is years before their time. They sadly realize that they don't belong here, and so take off again. In the second, the captain of the *Spindrift* gets back to Earth before they took off on the ill-fated flight that landed them on the giants' planet. He tries to prevent the take-off, only to end up having to replace himself and go through the whole thing all over again. I think that there was a time-related story on the other Irwin Allen show, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*.

Then there's that great TV classic, *Star Trek*. Two of the most memorable episodes involve returning to 20th Century Earth. The first one is unintentional—the *Enterprise* gets pulled back in time, where it is detected by U.S. radar and a fighter is scrambled to investigate the UFO. The ship puts a tractor beam on the fighter as it approaches, whereupon the "delicate" jet disintegrates. The pilot is beamed out just in time. To preserve history Kirk has to retrieve gun camera film that captured the *Enterprise*. They decide to keep the pilot so he can't say anything to change history. Unfortunately, they discover that his still-unborn son will play a decisive role in future interplanetary flight and so they *have to* return him somehow. Eventually they warp back and beam him into his plane just before he made contact. Just another unexplained radar glitch. In the other story, the *Enterprise* time warps back to the later 20th Century to gather historical information on how the Earth survived that critical period of time. In being there, the men from the future help prevent a malfunctioning warhead from starting World War III long before its time. Sort of a circular time paradox—men from the future in the past, doing something to preserve the past and future.

One of my favorites from the 1970's was *Space: 1999*. After passing through a space warp, the wandering moon appears to be approaching Earth again. The happy people of Moonbase Alpha look forward to going home. Then they

are later shocked to see that the Earth still has its moon. They are in the right place at the wrong time. Knowing that their presence in the past could change the future, they reluctantly have to sit and watch their homeworld recede again into the boundless depths of space. In another episode, Moonbase Alpha is contacted by scientists on a future Earth. They have devised a method to "beam" the Alphans back home. Unfortunately, there is a malfunction and the first group ends up in Earth's past. After the fault is finally corrected, they are returned to the Moonbase. But time has run out. The Moon has drifted on and now a cloud of cosmic debris cuts off further communication.

Of course, we can't go any farther without mentioning the TV versions of *The Planet of the Apes*, based on the very successful films. The premise is that a spaceship with American astronauts travels into the future to a post-holocaust world controlled by intelligent, talking apes.

In the 1970's series *The Incredible Journey* a family on a boat in the Bermuda Triangle passes through a time warp and ends up on an island divided into different time zones and civilizations. The series details their attempts to find their way off the island and back to their own time.

People might think that I should not forget to mention the enjoyable *Buck Rogers* series. Just like in *The Planet of the Apes* TV series, the main character is an astronaut who has "overslept" and finds himself in a very different, post-holocaust world. Beyond the presence in the future, *Buck Rogers* is mostly an action and adventure series.

An interesting show was *Voyagers!* It starred the late Jon-Erik Hexum as a time traveler—a Voyager—from the future who teams up with a boy from the 1980's. They travel through time with the Omni to places where they have to set some event right that has gone wrong.

Time travel and temporal anomalies have been featured prominently in anthology series. We have already mentioned two of the classics—*The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits*. Fascinating and entertaining stories in this vein have appeared on *The Night Gallery*, *Amazing Stories*, *The New Twilight Zone*, *The Ray Bradbury Theater*, *Tales From the Darkside*, *Friday the 13th: The Series*, and *Monsters*. I was especially impressed by several stories on the wonderful *Amazing Stories* and *The New Twilight Zone*.

Two stories from the latter series are especially moving to me: "A Message From Charity" and "Grace Note". The first story centers on two teens recovering from fevers 300 years apart. Charity lives in the Massachusetts Colony in the 1600's and Peter lives in the Massachusetts of today. Across the centuries they suddenly discover they can communicate. It is a great matter of culture shock for Charity to learn of the world of 1980's. Unfortunately, Charity's glimpse of the future and idle talk cause her to be branded a witch. Luckily, Peter is able to find some damaging information on the accuser and Charity is able to get the charges dropped. They realize it is too dangerous to remain in contact, but Charity leaves one final message, a heart with their initials scratched on a rock that survives the centuries. In the other story, which always brings tears to my eyes and a lump to my throat, a girl dying of leukemia makes a wish on a falling star. Her oldest sister, who had

dreams of a professional career as an opera singer, has sacrificed everything to care for the sick sister and an elderly aunt. The dying girl tries to convince her sister to get on with her life and fulfill her dream of singing. The wish is granted—the older sister is transported twenty years into the future where she sees herself as a famous opera star. She is called back through time by her sister's voice to the hospital. There, near death, the girl asks her sister if she saw the future. As the girl dies, the older sister promises she will never forget her and that she will make her proud. The story ends with the sister auditioning for an opera role. This, dear people, is one of the finest half-hours in television history!

We can't go on without mentioning that venerable British sci-fi series, *Doctor Who*. Beginning in 1963, the series details the adventures of a time traveler from the planet Gallifrey, who calls himself The Doctor. He can regenerate his body into a totally new form when seriously injured. The show lasted through seven lead actors and twenty-six seasons. And *Doctor Who* may still return.

To finish up this piece, I want to mention two current shows that have featured time travel/time warps: *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and *Quantum Leap*.

The best example on the former was an episode called "Yesterday's Enterprise". In the story, the current *U.S.S. Enterprise* runs into its direct predecessor, a ship that disappeared and was presumed destroyed more than 20 years before. As the earlier *Enterprise* appeared through a tear in time, the present changed. Now the Federation and the Klingons are no longer allies but still at war after decades of fighting and Tasha Yar is still alive. Captain Picard is finally convinced by the enigmatic Guinan that the earlier *Enterprise* has to go back to where it came from—to its certain destruction—to restore things to the way they are supposed to be. Learning from Guinan that she was not supposed to be still alive, Tasha volunteers to accompany the earlier *Enterprise* back through the tear to its fate in the battle with the Romulan warships. As soon as the earlier *Enterprise* passes through the tear in time, the present returns to normal.

On *Quantum Leap*, one of my favorite shows on TV today, Dr. Sam Beckett is a scientist who has invented a device to allow him to go back in time to any point in his lifetime. Unfortunately, the equipment does not work exactly as it is supposed to. Sam finds himself in the past alright, but in someone else's body! From then on, with the help of Al, the project observer, Sam leaps from person to person throughout the 20th Century helping to correct things that went wrong in the past. Although his leaps at first seem random, there appears to be a "guiding hand" in his leaps. When he finishes doing what needs to be done at that place and time, he leaps somewhere else. Each time he hopes it will be the final leap home. Not too long ago he leaped back in time to Vietnam where he saved his own brother from dying, but in doing so a photographer died instead and a much younger Al was prevented from being rescued from the North Vietnamese.

This series will conclude in the next issue.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE

The "Hidden People" of Iceland by Mark Gardner

I was an exchange student to Iceland the summer after I graduated from high school. At that time I had never been to another country, not even Canada or Mexico. So, for a young man away from home for the first time, it was an eye-opening experience. I was lucky that a girl from Iceland, Hjördís Magnúsdóttir, had been an exchange student at my high school during my senior year. She taught me some important words and phrases before I left. It helped a lot!

One of the most fascinating things about Iceland is that its language has changed very little since the time of its settlement by Vikings. Indeed, a modern Icelander has little difficulty in reading sagas from the time of Erik the Red. Icelanders have also retained a certain amount of the traditional beliefs of old Scandinavia, including a belief in fairies, elves, giants and trolls. Many Icelanders will deny a belief in supernatural beings, but usually only in public or in front of strangers.

Many people in Iceland believe that elves inhabit large rocks or the scarce trees in desolate areas of the country. Icelanders call these beings *huldufolk* (hidden people) or *álfar* (elves). I often heard whisperings of "enchanted areas" and "elf dwellings" — normally invisible to most human eyes. Once when I went camping with my host family, I climbed a steep hillside and stood in an arch of stone called *Álfarkirkjan* (The Elf's Church). I felt a bit light-headed there. Was this an "enchanted" place?

Elves are by no means limited to just Iceland. They are known throughout Scandinavia, the British Isles and the rest of Europe. Some people suggest that the elves of Iceland were not native to that desolate island in the North Atlantic, but came there with some of the earliest Viking settlers. Perhaps. Still, while belief in these beings has faded in most of Europe, it survives in Iceland.

And the Icelanders are probably more accommodating to the invisible beings they share their land with than any other country: Roads often curve around large elf-inhabited stones, *huldufolk* dwellings sometimes appear on environmental impact statements, farmers may leave a part of their field unplowed for the little beings' use, and building construction is often delayed while the local elves find somewhere else to live. Silly, you say? Not in Iceland. It is certainly true, though, that they are a somewhat superstitious people.

When builders and engineers start a new project, they often try to ascertain if the area is already inhabited by *huldufolk*. Sometimes, though, the survey is proven to be inaccurate. Small accidents happen, and tools and equipment are moved around or disappear. When this happens, they quietly call in a psychic to check the area and maybe make contact with the elves. In 1989, for example, while a new path was being constructed in Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland, equipment disappeared and computers malfunctioned. A well-known psychic, Erla Stefánsdóttir, was called in and talked to the local elf. Upon her advice, the city redirected the path around two inhabited rocks at the site.

In Kópavogur, the hometown of my old friend, Svana Bogadóttir, there is a street called (in translation) "Elf Hill Road". At one point it narrows down to one lane near an "inhabited" outcropping. Several attempts to widen the road in the past have met with broken equipment and other minor mishaps.

Unless you've been there, it's hard to explain the landscape of Iceland. Most of the island is an uninhabited wasteland of lava rock, moss and lichen. Here and there are active volcanoes, hot springs, geysers, boiling mud pits, roaring waterfalls, and glaciers. Some areas are so barren, that the word "desert" comes to mind. American Apollo astronauts, training for the moon landings, practiced here. So it is not hard to imagine a population of all sorts of otherworldly denizens populating the country.

Other than feeling light-headed that one time in the Elf's Church, I sometimes felt as if I was being watched and every once in a while it seemed as if something was there in my peripheral vision. When I would turn around, though, there was nothing there. Maybe it was just my sense of alienation in a very different place or my imagination running wild on me, but I think that there could possibly be something to the *huldufolk* stories in Iceland. This is a strange world we inhabit.



THINGS THAT GO *BUMP*

The Ghost of the Sorority House by Kimberly Wajer

At Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, the Greeks are raising quite a ruckus. Or at least one is — the Chi Omega sorority house is haunted. "Amanda" is supposedly the spirit of a girl who was killed in an accident after pledging to the sorority many years ago. She moved in anyway or so the story goes.

She has been blamed for turning on stereos, moving furniture, and various other phenomena. Her picture, a blank photo, is always put in the annual sorority album. Rumor has it that one year when her picture was left out, things began disappearing and other phenomena became much more frequent. XΩ

PSYCHIC SCENARIOS

Parapsychology: Things to Think About by James Baker

PSYCHOPOMPIC PHONEMES:

A special variant of what are apparently subjective voices that are usually identified by the experiencer with a guide, conductor or the *psychopompos* in out-of-body experiences (OOBEs), especially those OOBEs that are of the nature of thanatoid or near-death experiences (NDEs). These voices, apparently a form of thought-hearing, may be attributed to spirits of the dead, family members and, finally, what may be referred as the super-conscious mind, alter ego or Overself. The role of the Overself in such cases may be custodial. Psychopompic phonemes are to be distinguished from allegedly true voices of the dead (as in necrophonies), assuming, of course, the dead can speak to the living in whatsoever manner is possible to them. Psychopompic phonemes may be subservient to the possibilities or mechanisms which seem to be accessible to secondary personalities. They are probably analogous to those precognitive phonemes heard by clairaudients, whether spiritualistic mediums or the average individual, who may be warned of some impending danger or misfortune by means of teleological auditory hallucinations.

Psychopompic phonemes are frequently mentioned in accounts of NDEs. Ludlow, in "The Hashish Eaters", relates that a voice announced to him that his time was not

up yet, whereupon Ludlow returned to his physical body. Daniel Dunglass Home, the famous Scottish medium, in his work "Incidents of My Life", mentions that he heard the psychopompos announce that he (Home) was about to have a foretaste of death. Home thereupon had an unusual experience in which he was allegedly able to view his own anatomy clairvoyantly. The psychopompos then explained to Home the nature of death. Home believed that he had come upon deceased friends. Sylvan Muldoon, in his work "A Case for Astral Projection", cites a case from J. A. Edgerton's "Invading the Invisible" in which the psychopompos comments on Edgerton's experiences while the latter is under anesthesia, and assures him he is in the hands of friends and that there will be no untoward events.

CUSTODIAL PHENOMENA IN NDEs:

Custodial phenomena are those phenomena which occur in pneumatic separation — i.e. astral body separation — and that lead the subject to believe that he is in the hands or care of spiritual beings, family members or friends, or what may be termed the Overself. Such an Overself, whatever its real nature may be, can be referred to as the *psychopompos*. The subject may be conducted by such a guide in thanatoid experiences or NDEs. Perhaps the psychopompos may be invisible, manifesting as a bodyless voice. A pneumatist (astral projectionist) may regard all the automatic processes or activities which constitute his OOBEs as being under the superintendence of the psychopompos or Overself. In some cases the subject reports guides that are viewed as being of an exalted nature or as benign and god-like. Indeed, Christian pneumatists, in their accounts of their experiences, have mentioned biblical figures, such as the Virgin Mary, Jesus, and even God. Custodial phenomena may have a dream-like quality. They may inspire awe and reverence, whether familiar religious figures are present or not. X

The "Oops!" Department

by Bill Harkonen

As part of its continuing workplace safety program a company with an impressive 5-year safety record was showing its employees a film on eye injury prevention. Unfortunately for the company's spotless record the film was so graphic that 25 workers suffered minor injuries rushing to leave the room, 13 others fainted, and one person needed 7 stitches after falling out of his chair.

An ounce of prevention goes a long way, they say, but this is ridiculous! X

[If you hear of anything that you feel fits in *The "Oops!" Department*, send it along. Thanks! The Editor]

THE UFO OBSERVER

Roswell/Cluj and Iron Curtain Sightings

by Joy Barish
with Mark Gardner

I want to mention items about Roswell, sightings behind the Iron Curtain and the Rex Heflin (Dec. 1965) case which are probably not generally known. They have nothing to do with one another but all are pretty interesting, I think.

In a *UFO Brigantia* — which I get from England a few times a year — writer Ron Schnaffer discusses rocket parts scattered over an enormous area and experiments on a new type of parachute. (Project Hermes was one of these, unknown to the general public. It was a special two-part parachute and the foil found was probably from it.) These were probably responsible for the Roswell report.

In the 1940's the Air Force didn't want the public to know about erratic rockets that didn't land where they were supposed to. The minute I saw all those physical pieces on "Unsolved Mysteries" a long time ago I absolutely knew that what Whitley Strieber and many researchers are all excited about is not crashed UFOs/alien bodies. Ron Schnaffer mentions that this is nothing more than experiments with monkeys and perhaps other test animals.

I've read lately that the Rex Heflin sighting near Santa Ana, California, in December 1965 has been proven a total fraud! A string was involved!!! I think now that this is the general consensus concerning a case I always thought was authentic.

In *UFO's from Behind the Iron Curtain* by Ion Habana and Julien Weverbergh, Emil Barnea from Cluj, Romania, offers some important clues about the famous hat-shaped UFO which Heflin saw from the cab of his truck and photographed with a Model 101 Polaroid camera. He took the picture of the now famous UFO, then a second picture as it moved off to the northeast. Two more were taken... Keep reading!

He described a smoke-like vapor, blue-black in color. It disappeared in a northerly direction towards Saddleback Mountain.

The staff at the G2 office at El Toro (quoting the authors) said that the length lines on the original photos were very clear. It was called a hoax by the well known Major Hector Quintanilla, Jr. (a skeptic) but, as it says, a letter from an Air Force colonel told Rep. Alphonso Bell: "We have *not* classified the photograph as hoax."

Someone named Hartmann said he "simulated the three photos shown in this book by hanging a model on an invisible thread." Also, he spoke of a cloud which could NOT HAVE BEEN THERE although the author says a Los Angeles paper said the sky was "hazy then..." at Santa

Ana on December 3, 1965. A year later it was determined that the photos were taken within a short space of time. Heflin had no time to set up anything like a string, etc. In addition, a new study made by an aeronautical engineer John R. Grey — 16 years with Aerospace Engineering for Hughes Aircraft Company — revealed that Heflin had left the truck before taking the fourth photo. Thus the light meter of the camera had not used the light in the cab — so there was overexposure — and no cloud could be photographed anyway. The UFO probably left a vapor cloud as well, the authors say.

Now we find out about the invisible string or thread I just read about. This story refers to a thread that the experimenter (Hartmann?) with the Air Force used. I just had to call a halt to it to show the source of this ridiculous rumor. I always thought this case was authentic. There have been hat-shaped UFOs all over the world.

The chapter next mentions the Cluj photos taken August 18, 1968 and not published in the Romanian press until September 18, 1968. This hat-shaped UFO is a clone of the Heflin one. It was taken by Emil Garnea and his girlfriend, Zamfira Matea, while they were headed for Baci Wood near Cluj. When it was taken there was no wind and the only sound was of birds singing. Emil was 45 and a former army officer, employed as a technician, when this took place. This is another clue to the authenticity of the Heflin case.

Everyone is making a fuss about the unbelievably outrageous sightings 300 miles from Moscow. Much fun was made on "A Current Affair" some time ago by host Maury Povich and others!

I just read somewhere that our sightings are mostly little people with big heads, while it is just the opposite there — gigantic beings with tiny heads and three eyes! This seems to be the reason for glee in the anti-UFO camp re the Paraña, Argentina case related in "The Humanoids" (edited by Chas. Bowen). On July 24, 1962 a college student, riding his motorcycle outside Paraña, encountered a very tall creature with a melon-shaped head, long white hair, and three eyes that stared without blinking. On August 28, 1963 three boys in the Brazilian suburb of Familiar Sagrada (Belo Horizonte) saw four entities coming out of a UFO in diver-like suits. One of them was totally bald and appeared to have no eyes or ears, but a strangely opening mouth. So the ones in Russia were nothing new! I could give 100 examples of UFOs in Russia. The general public has no idea. They have been censored for years. I have read articles regarding the Russian UFOs in *Flying Saucer Review* and letters from serious researchers there, like Dr. Zigel.

In *UFO's from Behind the Iron Curtain* we can read of two unknown objects sighted in October 1971, recorded by the Rjeka Control Tower in Yugoslavia. One object was round and yet triangular, and was seen by the inhabitants of Zdecarg Rjeka.

To conclude: On October 16, 1971, near Zagreb, Yugoslavia, an American pilot bound for London saw a luminous round object like a "test balloon". This was reported later by a Lufthansa 727 flying to Athens!

I hope to write about more sightings later.

I

VISIT TO THE CRYPTOZOO

ISSIE OF JAPAN'S LAKE IKEDA

by Kenji Chōno

Issie is a lake monster which is said to inhabit Lake Ikeda of Kyushu Island in Japan. Lake Ikeda is a caldera lake which was formed 4,500 years ago by the eruption of a nearby volcano. This lake is about 15 kilometers in circumference and 233 meters deep at most. This lake harbours various kinds of fish, including the giant eels which are more than two meters long, and has been appointed as a natural monument of Japan.

On September 3, 1978, about 20 people observed a 20- to 30-meter-long black object with two humps, moving fast on the surface of the lake. And on December 16th of that same year, Issie was photographed by a man and that picture—which showed at least three hump-like objects—was later evaluated by the American UFO research group, Ground Saucer Watch (GSW). GSW concluded that what was shown in the picture was some kind of reptile swimming in the lake, although without firm belief.

Since then Issie was not observed very frequently—maybe because we did not pay much attention to it. Then...

On January 4, 1991, Issie was at last videotaped. At about 4:30 p.m., while driving beside the lake, Mr. Hideaki Tomiyasu and his family noticed a big black object in the middle of the lake. It then disappeared. However, when those five people reach the lakeside five minutes later, it reappeared 200 meters from them. This time it was four meters long (the eldest son described it as having been more than ten meters long) and moved sideways, submerging and surfacing with a visible splashing.

It submerged when a motorboat passed nearby, however, to their surprise, after that two long black objects (one was shorter than the other) reappeared, closing to each other until they were united. This whole sequence took place for about 20 minutes.

After their videotape was broadcast on TV, another person, Mr. Kazuo Kawano, came forward with his videotape which showed a strange disturbance on the surface. According to him, on October 21, 1990, at 1:00 p.m., he was watching the lake with his mother, when suddenly a strange disturbance had occurred. He could recognize a 5- to 10-meter-long black creature, so he videotaped it until it disappeared one minute later.

What is shown on both videotapes is so vague that it is difficult to identify. Therefore, many explanations were submitted — logs, waves, a school of fish, and giant eels. In the case of Mr. Tomiyasu's video, Professor Yuichi Ono of the Physical Science Department at Kyushu University

commented that it seemed to be some kind of life-form, but he was not sure whether it was merely a school of fish or something else.

When I saw Mr. Kawano's videotape on TV, I got the impression that it was a standing wave. However, we need more information on this and I do not think we should make a conclusion so easily.

[Editor's Note: Mr. Chōno is a cryptozoologist from Japan and this is his first article in *Elsewhen*. He had included some photocopies but they were not clear enough to reproduce here. Mr. Chōno investigated Canada's Ogopogo at Lake Okanagan in 1990. I certainly hope that he will submit other reports for "Visit to the Cryptozoo" in the very near future!]

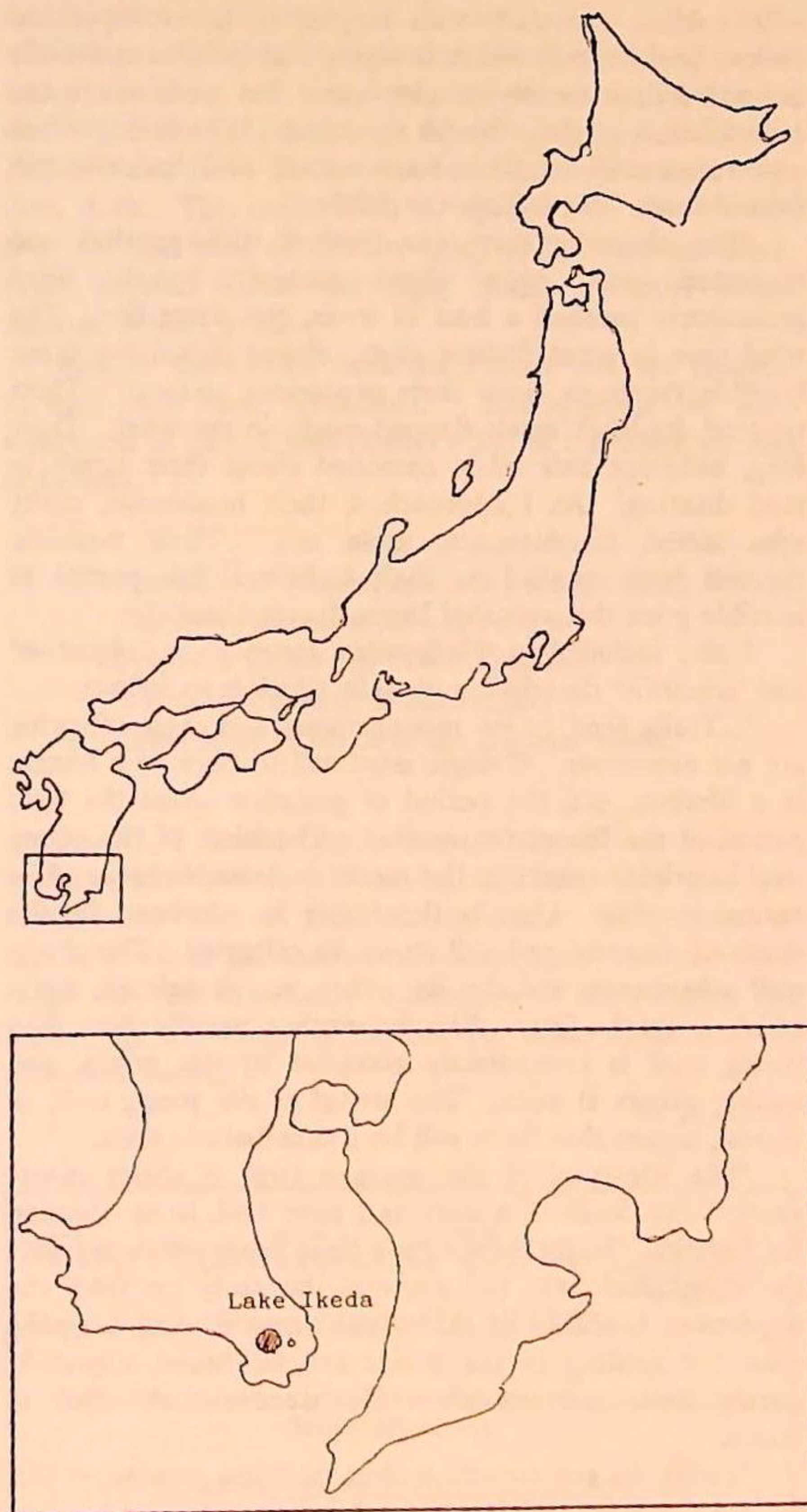


Figure 1. Kyushu Island & Lake Ikeda

YE FOLKLORE CORNER

CONCERNING TROLLS...

by James Baker

The following are excerpts from my "Hallowe'en Journey", which I sent to my niece several years ago in lieu of a Halloween greeting card. I like to associate trolls with goblins, especially with respect to their disposition toward positive evil, which is saying that goblins and trolls are more than merely mischievous. But trolls are more harmful than goblins, though the latter are more ingenious and resourceful in their harassments and bedevilments toward men. *This is Bakerian folklore.*

"The shadowy lane was flanked with gnarled and contorted trees upon whose scraggly boughs were grotesquely perched a host of trolls, tier upon tier. The wind rose in great furious gusts, almost dislodging these horrible creatures from their precarious stations. Their tattered, jet-black cowls flapped madly in the wind. Their long, unkempt hair often entwined about their heads in mad disarray. As I approached, their monstrous, crafty eyes stared mischievously upon me. Their uncouth, creased faces quaked as their lecherous lips parted in horrible grins that revealed large, decayed teeth."

I also included in "Hallowe'en Journey" an "objective" and "scientific" description of trolls which is as follows:

"...Trolls tend to be monogamous and their offspring are not numerous. A single issue will be born by a female in a lifetime, and the period of gestation spans the total period of the life of the mother. The birth of the young troll invariably results in the mother's death, because of its enormous size. Usually the father is infuriated by the death of its mate and will attack its offspring. The young troll whereupon assaults its father in self-defense, upon which event the father, like the mother, usually dies. The young troll is immediately accepted by the group, and mating occurs at once. The arrival of the young troll, of course, means that there will be a cannibalistic feast."

"The life-span of the average troll is about ninety years. The death of a troll, as I have said, is an occasion for festivity. Trolls do not bury their dead, which are only the bones and hair, but suspend the skeletons from the uppermost branches of the tallest trees. During a strong wind the rattling of the bones can be heard, especially during those seasons when the trees are denuded of leaves."

"Trolls do not usually molest or harm anyone — that is, the human species — unless one were to come immediately upon them or within the reach of their

extraordinarily elongated arms. Their strength is prodigious, despite their emaciated frames, their tottery stance, and their awkward gait and locomotion. Their disposition is extremely treacherous and once one is within their reach, they will suddenly and without warning, grasp one about the neck, either strangling their victim or wrenching the head off, after which they may, with great merriment and gusto, toss the decapitated member back and forth amongst themselves. They especially delight in dismemberment, being sanguine and carnivorous in disposition. They are arboreal in habit and pass long periods in conversation and idleness; but they become torpid at sundown, though some conduct themselves noisily beyond the hour of dusk. They never lapse into deep slumber or become totally insensible, no matter the lengthy periods of their exertions, as when preparing for feasts and similar occasions; yet their tendency is to be indolent. There are some species that do remain awake and relatively active after dusk and throughout the night, during which time they may engage in prolonged conversation. The topics of their conversation are of no great import or consequence and usually relate to planned activities of the morrow or to immediate concerns. References to the past are seldom. Often their conversations are utterly vacuous, apparently having no import whatsoever. Trolls are illiterate and exhibit no disposition whatever to the improvement of their minds. They are in no sense creative, although they do make their own clothing, which is a black cowl resembling a monk's habit. Trolls are partial to the colors yellow, orange, and black.

"Trolls, as has been already indicated, are by nature garrulous but also quarrelsome, and deaths occasionally result from wrangles amongst themselves, and such altercations may be followed by cannibalistic feasts. Natural deaths also result in this grisly repast."

"Trolls, upon reaching maturity, are almost invariably over six feet in height. Adult females are as tall as their male counterparts. Despite their extraordinary strength and durable bony framework, they are awkward in picking up heavy objects and may even topple forward in consequence."

"The population and distribution of trolls is unknown. They prefer dwelling in dense forests and are never to be found in desert regions. They are food-gatherers and prefer locations where fruits are abundant. Being lazy, they rarely prepare elaborate meals or engage in labor of any kind." X

[Editor's Note: Mr. Baker must be talking specifically about a type of forest troll here. The majority of trolls are nocturnal and would turn to stone if exposed to sunlight. They have small tails and live underground or in caves. And, of course, there are those rare ones that live under certain bridges... As to their eating and mating habits, those are probably the same. Not too many people have survived an encounter to provide information!]

OFF THE BOOKSHELF

The Mask of Nostradamus by James Randi,
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1990,
256 Pages, \$19.95.

James "The Amazing" Randi has again produced something well worth the reader's consideration: A serious study of the French 16th Century "prophet" whose latinized name was Nostradamus. The subject is a fit one for Randi's no-nonsense style, which is concise and logical — and impatient with foggy notions and far-reaching speculations masquerading as some sort of "science" of foreseeing future events. Such impatience may apply (and is applied by Randi) even more to Nostradamus' later "interpreters" than to the original figure. Randi makes a good case for taking hostile views of prophets, and offers explanations of what they do and how they produce material convincing to some.

But the book is not a simple attack, for Randi has approached the subject in a serious way. He has enlisted the aid of historians and historical documents, and has himself actually travelled to the places in France frequented by Nostradamus. Such care on his part has resulted in revealing insights as to the meaning of some of the written efforts produced by the seer.

In our age, "believers" have attempted to show that some quatrains predict the career of Adolf Hitler and even Japanese aggression. See, for instance, Randi's comments on the quatrain No. 4-68 (his chosen specimen #9, *op. cit.*, page 215). Here, followers of Nostradamus have taken allusions to "The two greatest of Asia & Africa" to mean Japan and Mussolini (Randi citing James Laver's interpretation). And Hitler enters through the name "Hister" for the "Lower Danube" (it is true that the Danube was called the "Ister" in ancient times). According to Randi, the quatrain predicts trouble for perhaps Venice and Genoa, as well as Malta. (Here, I should like to say that the literate men of the time of Nostradamus read the rediscovered classics of the Greeks and Romans. In the works they read, "Asia" is to be taken to be Asia Minor, and the greatest of Asia Minor at that time was, obviously, Turkey, which had already captured Constantinople and marched on Europe. The "greatest" of Africa we might take to be Egypt, where the Mamelukes were once part of the Ottoman Empire. The *Turks* were the real menace during the time of Nostradamus. Randi noted that danger elsewhere in his book, but I, myself, think it might bear upon this Specimen No. 9 of his choice for analysis.

Turkey *might* menace parts of Europe, as well as such islands as Malta.

In any event, those with any fascination for the works of Nostradamus — as well as those suspicious of them — will find this volume well worth their time. As a matter of interest, I would add to Randi's opinion that physician Nostradamus' use of remedies from roses was fallacious, the note that such usage was traditional (see Moses Maimonides' recipes, for instance). That twelfth-century physician/philosopher/author mentioned the medical use of rose products extensively in his work *The Preservation of Youth*; he had begun in Spain but ended his days in Cairo, an older man at the time of Richard Lion-Heart's crusade. The use of the rose shows that the medieval views and "ancient knowledge" were still being taught at the time of the northern Renaissance in Europe. The rose itself, whether for medicinal or aesthetic reasons, goes back to the ancient world — see the photograph of a coin of Rhodes circa 80 B.C. following page 42 of Michael Grant's *The Visible Past*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1990, illus. 4.4b. This coin shows an opened rose face on one side and the head of the sun god, Helios, on the other. (This was the god of the huge, bronze "Wonder of the Ancient World" statue.)

Randi's translations from his French text are straightforward and seem reasonable. The quatrain we have mentioned in this review (Randi's #9) is translated by him as follows:

"In the year very near, not far from Venus,
The two greatest of Asia & Africa
From the Rhine and Lower Danube,
Which will be said to have come,
Cries, tears at Malta & the Ligurian coast."

Finally, I should like to remark that if one finds the writings of Nostradamus to be difficult, they are yet considerably clearer than the so-called "Prophecies of Merlin", which are marvels of obscurity. The interested reader can find these latter in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *The History of the Kings of Britain* (available from Penguin paperback books).

H. H. Trotti

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STRANGE STONES

THE DOLMEN MYSTERY

by Hugh H. Trotti

Many mysterious things exist which, though often taken over by the "true believers" in various peculiar causes, can sometimes be explained in ways which are less exotic. Such explanations may not always be simple. Sometimes they might be quite complex and not always amenable to attempts to use the "Occam's Razor" approach. An example of the complex cause (or causes) may be the "continental drift" theory now dominant in geological thinking.

There remain some mysteries which might be explained by fairly simple means. Some of the group of "ancient mysteries" that seem to invite comment from time to time will fall into this category if one gives the subject at hand some thought — and if one approaches ancient subjects without an implicit conviction that ancient people were stupider than the modern variety, or were "all brawn and no brains".

To demonstrate the "simple cause" solution, we may choose one of the most impressive mysteries of the ancient world: The *dolmen*. The dolmen was constructed of stones — being a megalithic structure — and many of such structures were old when the classical Greeks and later the Romans arose to make their imprints upon history. The dolmen was composed of a huge capstone (it could be as heavy as 90 or 100 tons!), which served as a horizontal "roof" and was supported by smaller stones placed under it, thus creating a central area which might (according to many scholars) be used as a common tribal tomb.

Some examples may have at one time been covered with earth which has eroded away over the centuries, while others may have always stood above ground level. A typical structure might look like that in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1. A Dolmen

It might appear very impressive in size. The central area created by the stones supporting the roof was not necessarily completely enclosed.

Some scholars, considering how such structures might have been made, have theorized that ancient peoples piled up a mound of earth over and around supporting stones, and then hauled the huge capstone to the top of the mound, being careful to center it correctly over the buried supports. While this method may not be impossible, it is possible to propose a way that would be fairly easy to construct a typical dolmen.

First, one would find a large many-ton stone resting upon its side — perhaps one that was left by a retreating glacier many ages ago. It would be on a hilltop or at least a slight rise, for we do not wish subsequent erosion to bury it.

Second, we find at least three smaller stones, which may be moved by only a few people, for use as supports. They will be fairly near the site of our proposed capstone, to lessen our effort. We bring them to the capstone.

Third, we create a tunnel large enough to admit one of our support stones underneath one side of the capstone and not quite at its center. Then we move one support stone to the end of the tunnel. (See Fig. 2.)

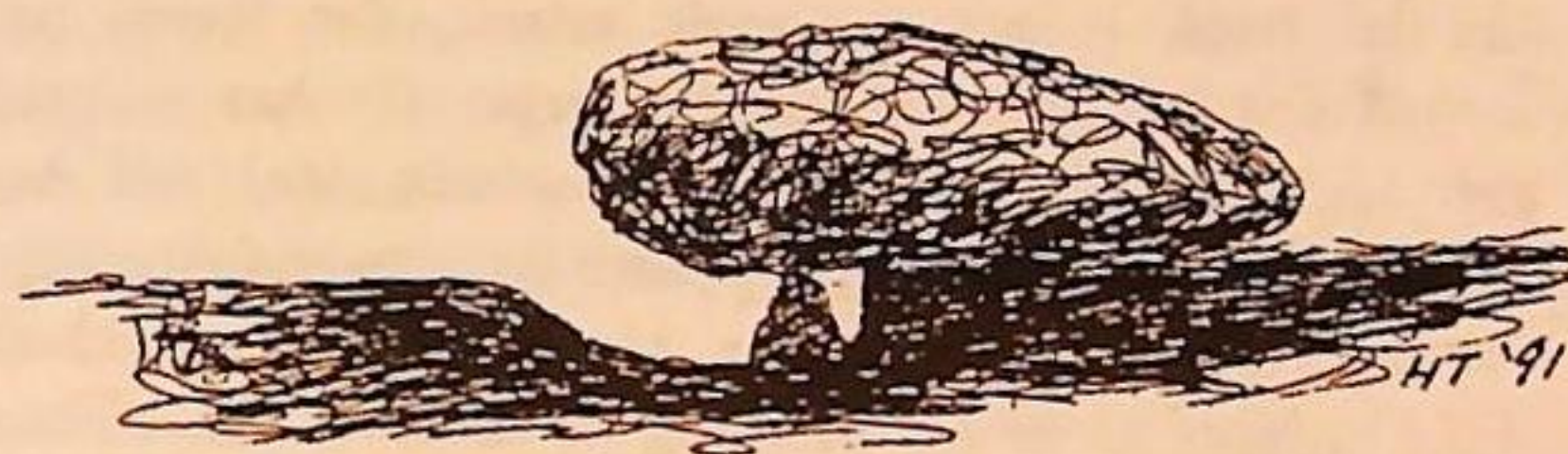


Fig. 2. Support Stone at the End of A Tunnel

Fourth and fifth, we repeat Step Three, creating two more tunnels at regular spacings around the capstone and placing a support stone at the end of each. We position the support stone at the end of each tunnel, before digging out another tunnel, to make sure the weight of our huge capstone is well supported.

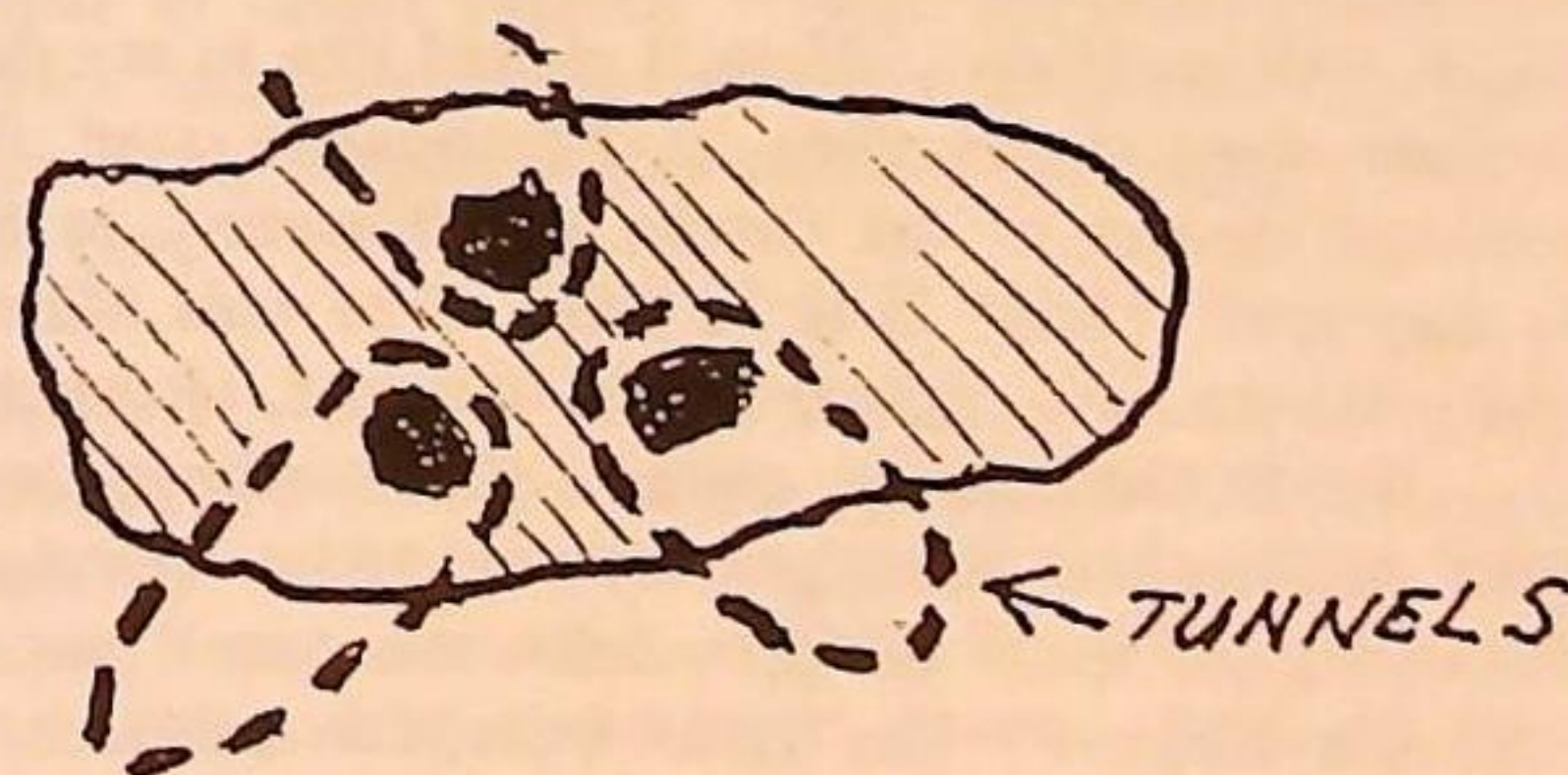


Fig. 3. Overhead "X-Ray" View — The Earth Still Supports the Capstone's Weight

Sixth, when we have completed at least three such stone supports at the end of three tunnels and have placed them so as to carefully balance the capstone above them, we set about removing the dirt from between the tunnels. This step will [probably] be undertaken by the least popular members of our work team.

Seventh, we will clear away the dirt from around the structure, to create a new and lower ground level, even with the bases of the support stones.

This entire proposal depends upon the simple thesis that it is easier to move dirt than to move huge stones. We know that early peoples piled earth up into large mounds; here I submit that to clear away a smaller amount of earth from under and around a dolmen should be fairly easy.

SUPRA NEWS

As the director of the Strange & Unusual Phenomena Research Association, I thought I would use the occasion of the 10th issue of *Elsewhen* to begin a new semi-regular feature — news about the organization. I feel that a status report is definitely long overdue.

Of course, the most obvious thing is the change of our parent organization's name. Since we quickly grew from a group focusing on temporal anomalies into a forteen organization, I felt this change was warranted. The change became official on October 31, 1991, when I filed the business name application papers with the State of Oregon Corporation Division. Other than the name change, though, there are no changes to our organization's form or function. As part of the change, a wonderful "official logo" has been designed by a former neighbor for SUPRA — an hourglass spiraling out from space. This symbolizes our stated goal of "exploring mysteries of time and space." This logo will appear on stationary and other items in the future.

Actually, having this space available in which to talk to you this issue was an accident. An article had been formatted for this spot in *Elsewhen* but was withdrawn at the last moment upon the split-up of its authors, a sad story. So, I decided to use the "opportunity" to fill you in on the doings here at SUPRA headquarters.

So far, since TARA/SUPRA first appeared in 1988/89 we have heard from people in 16 different countries. This is really quite exciting. This issue of *Elsewhen* will be going out to people and organizations in 9 countries. I am really excited about the international contacts we have. Although we are still relatively small and in extremely tight financial shape, there are signs that growth is just around the corner. I am grateful for all of the kind words I have received from people around the world. I have yet to receive a negative letter, although renewals have been a bit weak in the past. I feel that this is due more to the shape of the economy than the content of the publication.

I have always tried to keep the costs down, so that anyone can afford to subscribe to *Elsewhen*. I know what it is like to want to subscribe to something and not have the money. Who wants to pay \$30 or more a year for a quarterly publication?!? Although prices will rise in the future, I will always keep them just above my costs. This publication is a labor of love to me and I don't want to spoil the fun of producing it by becoming greedy. The U.S. price will eventually level out at about \$10.00 per year. This is still quite good when compared to inferior newsletters that are running about \$15-\$20 per year. The random survey I conducted last year revealed that 92% of the readers of *Elsewhen* felt they were getting their money's worth! That was *before* I made changes to the format, such as color covers, vertical lines between columns for readability, improved page numbering, and additional pages.

In the near future I am hoping to change the form that *Elsewhen* comes in to a more magazine-like format. This depends on the financial stability of the organization. I think this will make a big difference in the way people look at SUPRA and *Elsewhen*.

After the New Year, I will be starting contests in *Elsewhen*. There will be a prize given to the first correct answer or solution. We will also continue incentive discounts for longer subscription commitments — the longer you subscribe, the more you save. Plus, longer subscriptions save you from future price changes.

My research trip to Great Britain went well, but I was not able to do about half of my itinerary because of the weakness of the dollar right now — I actually ran out of money before my trip was over! I took 22 rolls of film while there. The highlights were visits to Stonehenge, the Avebury Stones, the Tower of London, a field where a crop circle had appeared, and several "haunted" locations. I spent one week in England and two weeks in Scotland. Many articles based on my recent trip will appear in future issues of *Elsewhen*.

As to the headquarters of SUPRA — they are still located in my home. This will probably continue to be the case for the foreseeable future. Thanks to a recent promotion at work, though, I should be able to move to a bigger place in 1992. That will make organization of our growing archives and library much easier.

As part of SUPRA's future growth plans, I am planning to begin a computer database of forteen material. I have designed a quite comprehensive classification system for strange and unusual phenomena, along with report forms to be filled out by witnesses. Faithful contributor Kimberly Wajer played a large rôle in the development of this classification system. Thanks, Kim!

We have started a more aggressive advertizing campaign, including being listed in *FATE* for three months as a trial experiment. If response is good, we will continue to advertize there *and* expand to other publications.

I will be preparing a directory of past articles in *Elsewhen* to assist people in finding specific topics and for people wanting to order certain back issues.

Thanks for all of your wonderful past support!

RESEARCH TIPS

FORTEAN RESEARCH ON A BUDGET: Tip #2 — Local Libraries & Historical Societies

by Gary S. Mangiacopra

As an individual who has gained a reputation as a library ferret for digging out and finding long forgotten fortean incidents, I have been told by many that they, too, would like to do similar research but don't have the time or permission to go through the newspapers on microfilm at the nearby university or the state historical society.

One does not have to travel that far in both time and expense — only a short distance to one's hometown public library or historical society. For a researcher just starting out in the fortean field, this is the best advice I can suggest. By first checking out what one can find in your local library or historical society, one can gain much needed and invaluable experience on how to conduct literature research when one does have time and limited funds at literature sources far distant from your home.

I have found that historical societies sometimes have files of newspaper and magazine clippings on incidents that had occurred locally — be it "haunted locales" or other unusual fortean incidents. Simply by stating (discretely) that you are doing research on "out-of-the-ordinary incidents" that occurred within the area, one may be surprised as to what one may find. If one needs background information after finding an incident, a local historical society can be of immense help. Some societies also have microfilmed copies of local newspapers going back a century or more. Again, this is a valuable source that one can draw upon.

Almost all towns, if they do not have historical societies (which usually have limited operating hours during the week anyway), *do* have a public library. It is this source that can be immensely valuable to the investigator. As the hours are usually more convenient to one's working schedule, this is the source that one should concentrate upon.

One problem that a beginning investigator *should* realize is that many past local happenings occurred decades — or centuries — before, leaving no written record, not even a brief mention in any books on the history of the town or city. So where does one begin? The town's newspaper, of course!

It must be remembered that a newspaper is actually a daily or weekly diary of the events that had occurred within the township and even beyond its immediate region. For it is here that the editor or local resident, writing to the

newspaper, communicated about something possibly fortean. But — and this must be remembered — newspapers are not indexed. So how does one find such incidents? By scanning the newspaper page by page.

This takes a lot of time and expertise, but by doing so, one slowly begins to accumulate fortean events of the past locally and even nationally. Newspapers of the 19th Century had the habit — fortunately for us — of copying from one another on news events.

Once you find these fortean items, always record the newspaper's name, where it was published, the date, page and column, and — importantly — what *edition* it was. What is not often realized is that even some of the smaller town newspapers may have had several different editions on the same date. There could have been a town edition, a rural edition, and even an edition for the tourists — all published on the very same date.

Accuracy is very important. I have found many instances where a writer quoted a newspaper source from a locale I could not locate — until I realized what edition it was in. The source existed as stated, but the precise edition did not. And, importantly, many different editions of the same date may not have been preserved to the present day. So the source that a writer quoted may, in fact, have been correct—except that that precise edition has not survived to the present day.

These are all factors that one may encounter when one begins to research locally. And, so I say to all, the grass is not greener over the hill; it may be greener in one's own backyard. SO BEGIN THERE!

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SUBMISSIONS are always welcome. We're interested in any of the subjects mentioned on the previous page. We are looking for short articles, illustrations, letters, and reviews. Longer articles or a continuing series will be considered. All articles should be typed or clearly printed, and accompanied by return postage if the original is wanted back.

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